" (*d*) & (*e*) In view of the answer given to clauses (*b*) and (*c*), these questions do not arise."

Markets for the quinine products of the Government Cinchona Department.

* 427 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government in 1952–53 to secure markets for the products of the Government Cinchona Department, Ootacamund, against imported products and to align the price of quinine with that in West Bengal?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government advertised about our quinine products in newspapers such as 'The Times of India' during 1952–53. Copies of price lists of the quinine products manufactured by this Government were also sent to all chemists, druggists and registered medical practitioners in this Government's zone of supply. Necessary instructions were also issued to the State medical institutions asking them to encourage the indigenous quinine. The Government of India were also addressed to restrict the imports of foreign quinine and they have practically banned the import of quinine except in respect of some special items.

" The Government have examined the question of aligning the prices of the quinine products manufactured by this Government with those of West Bengal Government and it was found to be not practicable to fix our prices entirely on a par with those of the West Bengal Government, as the method of pricing, etc., adopted by the Bengal Government was radically different from that of ours. The question of bringing our prices in parity with those of West Bengal Government is being examined again in consultation with West Bengal Government."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, in view of the heavy loss incurred in this Cinchona Department, whether the steps taken by the Government were quite sufficient? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, Government are further looking into the matter."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, in view of the loss incurred by this department, would the Government think of utilizing the cinchona tracts for some other purpose? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the Government have been examining that aspect also."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, since quinine is a very essential medicine, is it desirable to prevent import from outside and is it not better that if the local production is uneconomical to stop it rather than prevent importation? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, if the local product is as efficacious as the foreign product, there is nothing wrong in preventing import of foreign product."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have got only 15 minutes and we have to cover 25 questions. I pass on to the next question."

Handloom Development Schemes.

* 428 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are financing any Handloom Development Schemes in the State;

(*b*) whether the Government have recommended the schemes to the Central Government, requesting financial aid from the Centre; and

(*c*) the estimated cost and the number of schemes approved by the Central Government?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) The attention of the member is invited to the answer to question No. 71 (starred) by the hon. Member Sri N. K. Palaniswamy, which was placed on the table of the House."

Reduction of assessments of poramboke lands leased out for soaking coconut husks.

* 429 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the rate of assessment in respect of poramboke lands leased out for soaking coconut husks in Malabar district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government have no such proposal under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the assessment of these poramboke lands was raised from Rs. 2–8–0 to Rs. 50 some one or two years back and in view of the great depression in the coir industry, may I request the Government to reconsider the matter and reduce the assessment? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It was already reduced by 25 per cent and the District Collector is given discretion to reduce it as and when there is need for it."

Representation to bring the Rasipuram Weavers' Society within the scope of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act.

* 430 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Sri K. R. Viswanathan, is not in his place. The answer to the question will be printed in the proceedings."